

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 18-20 as follows:

Claim 18. (New) A method of coating an article with chocolate, comprising:
releasing said chocolate from an opening in a supply container to form a curtain of said chocolate;

directing a pressurized gas at a surface of said chocolate to form a layer of gas between said surface and said supply container in a region proximate said opening; and

moving said article with respect to said curtain so as to coat said article with said chocolate, wherein said layer of gas reduces friction between said chocolate and said supply container.

Claim 19. (New) The method as in claim 18, wherein said layer of gas reduces a viscosity of said chocolate at said opening so that a flow rate of said chocolate through said opening is increased.

Claim 20. (new) The method as in claim 18, further comprising controlling a temperature of said pressurized gas to be substantially the same as that of said chocolate.